

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05857 011617Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 MMO-01 A-01 PER-01

NEAE-00 /030 W

----- 070459

P 011553Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9388

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5857

FOR NEA/EX AND VO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANESE CRISIS AND CONSULAR WORKLOAD IN DAMASCUS

REF: (A) NICOSIA 2566, (B) DAMASCUS 5471

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO GRANT AUTHORIZATION FOR POST TO HIRE TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND ASSIGN CONSULAR OFFICER REPLACEMENT FOR KARLA SMITH TO MEET INCREASED WORKLOAD AS RESULT OF SUSPENSION BEIRUT VISA SERVICES. TDY OF ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCED FSL FROM BEIRUT IS BEING ARRANGED.

2. DURING MONTH OF AUGUST CONSULAR SECTION ACTED ON APPROX 1170 NON-IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATIONS, 780 OF WHICH WERE LEBANESE. FINAL FIGURES FOR IV'S NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT TOTAL ISSUANCE WILL BE JUST OVER 300. SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER TOTAL EXPECTED FOR SEPTEMBER. NORMAL IV ISSUANCE TO RESIDENTS OF SYRIA IS 40 TO 50 IV'S PER MONTH.

ABOVE-MENTIONED SUSTAINED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY ACHIEVED BY SPECIAL EFFORT OF STAFF WITH MANY HOURS OF OVERTIME.

AS MENTIONED BY REDDEN (SEE REF. A), IV ISSUANCE IS INCREASING AT FASTER RATE THAN WHAT WE ESTIMATED JUST TWO WEEKS AGO. WITH TERMINATION OF PIT POSITION ON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05857 011617Z

AUGUST 29 AND DEPARTURE OF TDY KARLA SMITH, PROVIDING

ADEQUATE STAFF TO MEET WORKLOAD OF CONSULAR SECTION IS CRITICAL. SINCE ONLY ONE MORE EXPERIENCED VISA FSL IS AVAILABLE FROM BEIRUT, WE PROPOSE HIRING TWO ADDITIONAL STAFF LOCALLY. TWO CANDIDATES ARE ALREADY WORKING, ONE AT EMBASSY, THE OTHER FOR THE COMMERCE DEPT-TRADE FAIR. BOTH ON CONTRACT AND ARE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN GET GOOD LOCALS ON CONTRACT BASIS OR FOR LENGTH OF TIME WE EXPECT TO BE DOING SIGNIFICANT PART OF BEIRUT WORKLOAD.

5. PRESENT STAFFING IS 2 OFFICERS AND 6 FSL'S. THIS COMPLEMENT IS INADEQUATE FOR ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD WHICH WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EXPEDITE AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO SUSTAIN HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT ADDITIONAL HELP. TOTAL PROPOSED STAFF FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE WOULD BE THREE OFFICERS AND 9 FSL' , INCLUDING 4 ON TDY FROM BEIRUT. PERSONAL PLANS OF TDY PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT MAY CAUSE THEIR DEPARTURE BEFORE WORKLOAD DECREASES, AND ADDITIONAL 2 PERMANENT FSL'S REQUESTED HERE WOULD PROVIDE STABILITY AND CONTINUITY IF WE HAD TO BRING STAFF TO FULL COMPLEMENT.

6. ACTION SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO AUTHORIZE DAMASCUS TO HIRE TWO FSL'S ON CONDITIONAL APPOINTMENT AND TO ASSIGN ONE CONSULAR OFFICER WITH VISA EXPERIENCE TO DAMASCUS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PENDING FULL RESUMPTION OF VISA SERVICES IN BEIRUT.
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC05857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760332-0032
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609103/aaaadkds.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NICOSIA 2566, 76 DAMASCUS 5471
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE CRISIS AND CONSULAR WORKLOAD IN DAMASCUS
TAGS: CGEN, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006